

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-11 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 08-031128 to Nagai (JP '128) in view of JP 2002-166401 to Tsubouchi (JP '401).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner asserts that the JP '128 discloses a laminate structure having all the features of the present invention with the exception of the position of the barrier layer. The Examiner takes the position that providing a barrier layer between the porous substrate and adhesive layers to prevent migration of adhesive into the porous substrate is well known in the art. Moreover, the Examiner asserts that JP '401 expressly discloses that a barrier layer (2) is provided between a porous substrate (1) and an adhesive layer (3) to prevent an adhesive from infiltration into a surface of a porous substrate.

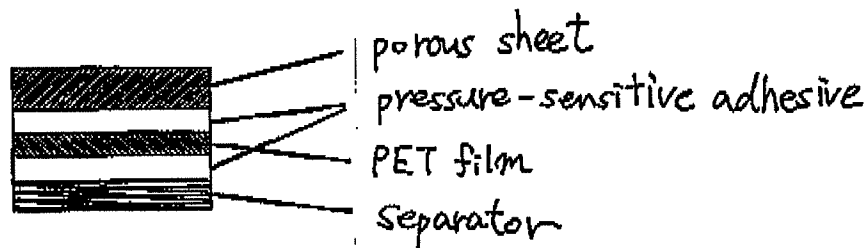
Applicants disagree.

JP '128 does not only fail to disclose the claimed barrier layer, the construction of the member for optical disk protection of JP '128 is clearly different from the claimed sliding member of the present application.

Claim 1 recites a sliding member comprising a slidable substrate; a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer provided on one side thereof; and a barrier layer, wherein the slidable substrate is a porous form having a porosity of 20-70% and comprises an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene; and wherein the barrier layer is provided between the slidable substrate and the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

In contrast, JP '128 (the primary reference) discloses, for example in Example 1 at paragraphs [0038] to [0039], a double-coated pressure-sensitive adhesive tape that is obtained by applying the pressure-sensitive adhesive to the both sides of the substrate (polyethylene terephthalate film) having a thickness of 25 μm . Then, the separator is attached to one side of the double-coated pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, and the porous sheet is attached to the other side of the double-coated pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, thereby obtaining the member for optical disk protection.

The resulting member for optical disk protection of JP '128 has the following structure, which is clearly different from that of the present application.



Further, even if JP '401 (the secondary reference) may teach a barrier layer provided between a porous substrate and an adhesive in order to prevent the adhesive (in solution form) from infiltration into the pores, such is not a concern with JP '128.

Specifically, JP '128 teaches that the adhesive is applied to the separator and dried, and then the porous sheet is stuck to the pressure sensitive adhesive. Since the adhesive of JP '128 is dried prior to being attached to the porous sheet, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be concerned with the adhesive infiltrating the pores of the sheet.

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify JP '128 to provide a barrier layer between the porous substrate and adhesive layers, and much less would one of

ordinary skill in the art be motivated to combine the references of JP '128 and JP '401 in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits the claimed invention according to claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Rejection of Claims 8-10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '128 in view of JP '401 as applied to claims 7 and 1, respectively above, and further in view of JP 08-034959 A to Nakanishi (JP '959).

Applicants traverse.

Claims 8-10 depend from claim 1 and would therefore be patentable over the art for at least the reasons mentioned with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-10 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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